

**TANF STATE PLAN
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE PLAN FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Virginia submits its State Plan for the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program pursuant to Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, section 402. The plan effective date is October 1, 2004.

The information submitted below restates, in bold, the State Plan requirements in section 402. Information outlining the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia's program follows each State Plan requirement.

SECTION 1

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (i) **Conduct a program, designed to serve all political subdivisions in the State (not necessarily in a uniform manner), that provides assistance to needy families with (or expecting) children and provides parents with job preparation, work, and support services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient.**

INTRODUCTION

Virginia's TANF cash assistance program is based on its 1995 waiver-based welfare reform initiative which includes the Virginia Independence Program (VIP) and the Virginia Initiative For Employment Not Welfare program (VIEW).

VIP and VIEW are the centerpiece of the Commonwealth's welfare reform and their provisions emphasizing personal responsibility are in effect statewide. Virginia's welfare reform program embodies the key tenets of TANF, including an emphasis on personal responsibility, work, and time-limited benefits. Its provisions incorporate and build on the fundamental TANF principles by:

- (1) making work the primary goal for welfare recipients;
- (2) ensuring that two parents contribute to the financial well-being of each child;
- (3) permitting recipients to keep more earnings as they prepare to leave welfare;
- (4) subsidizing child care, transportation and health benefits to ease the transition to the working world;
- (5) setting a time limit for welfare benefits; and
- (6) requiring teen parents to stay at home and stay in school.

Virginia plans to continue to operate VIP and VIEW. Virginia benefit levels remain those implemented July 1, 2000. VIP and VIEW activities, which

include cash assistance, employment services, and supportive services, are funded by federal funds commingled with MOE (maintenance of effort) funds.

The following documents serve as the foundation for operation of Virginia's TANF program:

- (1) Commonwealth of Virginia TANF State Plan;
- (2) *Code of Virginia* §§ 63.2-600 through 63.2-619, and 63.2-1908;
- (3) Virginia's regulations relating to the TANF program;
- (4) Virginia's most recent AFDC State Plan.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE TANF PROGRAM

The Department of Social Services (DSS), within the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources, is the agency responsible for supervising the TANF program at the State level. TANF is administered at the local level by Virginia's 120 local social services departments, under state DSS supervision. Virginia serves all political subdivisions in the state in a uniform manner.

Involvement of Other State Agencies -- Other state agencies that are collaborating with Virginia DSS in operating or providing supportive services to TANF clients include: the Virginia Employment Commission, the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Education, and the Department for Aging.

Public Involvement in Program Development -- Virginia sought extensive public participation in developing the initial welfare reform initiatives contained in VIP.

The state continues to invite participation as further changes are made to the program to emphasize self-sufficiency. TANF regulations were promulgated to streamline TANF eligibility requirements and, when possible, align requirements and procedures in the Food Stamp program. The regulations were the result of findings of a task force convened in 1996. The task force met throughout the state and held open meetings to obtain input from local departments of social services, state agencies, and public and private individuals and organizations

concerning changes needed to make the program more responsive to the needs of Virginians.

Virginia's Administrative Process Act requires the promulgation of state regulations and public comment on governmental programs which affect its citizens. Regulations are subject to a substantial comment period, including an initial 30-day comment period, a full 60-day comment period, and a final 30-day review period. In an effort to increase the opportunity for public comment, the promulgation of the TANF regulation (22 VAC 40-295) included two full 60-day comment periods and a public hearing.

VIRGINIA'S WELFARE REFORM PROGRAM

The goal of the Virginia Independence Program is to enable welfare recipients to leave the rolls and become self-reliant. The program has at its core three basic elements: personal responsibility, work in exchange for benefits, and time-limited assistance.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services first approved Virginia's welfare waiver package on July 1, 1995, and these waivers took effect on that day. In 1996, additional amendments were made to the waivers, and federal approval of the revised waiver package was received September 13, 1996. Effective July 1, 2003, Virginia's waiver package expired. In order to better serve families who are unable to comply with the VIEW program work requirements resulting from a variety of barriers to employment, Virginia established the Non-VIEW program funded by State-only funds. Virginia maintains its strong belief that meaningful employment is essential to achieving the goal of self-sufficiency, but acknowledges that not all families will be able to meet this goal in the time frame defined by federal requirements. Families in this program include those that face at least one of the following barriers or family situations that would not result in successful participation in the VIEW work program:

- (1) Any individuals, including all minor caretakers, under 16 years of age;
- (2) Any individual at least 16, but no more than 19 years of age, who is enrolled full-time in elementary or secondary school, including vocational or technical school programs. The vocational or technical school must be equivalent to secondary school;

- (3) Any individual unable to participate because of a temporary medical condition that prevents entry into any level of employment or training as determined by a physician or qualified professional;
- (4) Any individual who is incapacitated, as determined by receipt of Social Security Disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income;
- (5) Any individual 60 years of age or older;
- (6) Any individual who is the sole care giver of another member of the household who is incapacitated, and whose presence is essential for the care of the member on a substantially continuous basis, shall be exempt from participation in VIEW. Incapacity is determined by receipt of Social Security Disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income. The sole other condition under which an individual may be determined incapacitated is by written medical statement from a physician;
- (7) A parent or caretaker of a child under 18 months of age who personally provides care for the child. A parent of a child not considered part of the TANF assistance unit under the family cap provision (Code of Virginia § 63.2-604) may be granted a temporary exemption of not more than six weeks after the birth of the child;
- (8) A female who is in her fourth through ninth month of pregnancy as determined by a written medical statement provided by a physician, a registered nurse who is the physician's designee, or a licensed nurse practitioner;
- (9) Children receiving AFDC-Foster Care; and
- (10) Legal guardians, grandparents, foster parents or other persons standing *in loco parentis* and who are not the adoptive or biological parents of the child.

When appropriate, the Non-VIEW program continues to promote self-sufficiency through employment by allowing clients to voluntarily participate in TANF work activities.

Virginia's VIP and VIEW programs meet the reform requirements mandated by "The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193)."

COMPONENTS of VIRGINIA'S TANF PROGRAM

The following components are included in Virginia's TANF Program:

Diversiónary Assistance -- Diversiónary assistance provides a one-time cash payment worth up to four months of benefits to meet a family's needs during a crisis such as a transportation, child care, or housing emergency. The amount of the payment is based on the family size and the Standards of Assistance for the locality grouping in which the family resides (e.g., in a Group II locality the amount paid for a typical Virginia welfare family of a mother and two children is \$1,280). In order to qualify for diversionary assistance, an applicant must be otherwise eligible for TANF, with the exception of some non-financial criteria. The applicant relinquishes his or her right to TANF assistance for a time period equal to the benefit total, plus one-third (a 1/1.33 ratio).

Learnfare -- This provision was designed to keep children, including minor parents, in school.

To be eligible for assistance, children in the assistance unit under age 18, including minor parents, must comply with the State compulsory school attendance requirements. A child is considered as meeting this requirement until such time as the local department of social services receives notification that the child is truant. A child who is 18 years old meets the school attendance requirement, regardless of actual attendance, as long as (s)he is enrolled and expected to complete high school or an equivalent program no later than the month in which (s)he turns 19. Truancy is defined for TANF purposes as noncompliance with State compulsory school attendance requirements, as determined by the local school division pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-254 et seq., and any additional rules deemed necessary by the local school board to carry out the intent of the State compulsory school attendance laws.

When the local department of social services verifies through the school that a child is truant, the local social services department must do the following:

- (1) Send a written notice to the caretaker advising him that the truant recipient is in jeopardy of losing eligibility for benefits. The caretaker must contact the local department within five days of the

notice to cooperate in developing a plan to achieve compliance with compulsory school attendance laws. The notice must also specify that failure to contact the local department may result in the truant recipient's ineligibility for assistance due to non-cooperation.

- (2) If the caretaker does not respond within five days, the worker must attempt to personally contact the caretaker.
- (3) If the local department is unable to make personal contact, the local department must mail a written advance notice of proposed action to the caretaker advising that benefits will be reduced if the caretaker fails to contact the local department to develop a plan to return the child to school.

If the local department of social services denies or terminates assistance for noncompliance, the caretaker must notify the local department in writing of the truant individual's compliance with school attendance requirements and file a new application for benefits. The local department must verify compliance by contacting the school before reinstating assistance for the child.

Minor Parent Residency Requirement -- This provision is intended to provide a safe, nurturing environment for minor welfare mothers and their babies. Under this provision, a minor mother must live with her parent or a person standing *in loco parentis* in order to receive TANF benefits. Assistance is denied if the residency requirement is not met. There are exceptions if the minor parent is married, the minor parent has no parent or *person standing in loco parentis* who is living, the minor parent has no parent or person standing *in loco parentis* whose whereabouts are known, there is no appropriate person willing to assume the responsibility of acting *in loco parentis*, or the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent or dependent child would be jeopardized if the minor parent and child lived in the same residence with the parent or person standing *in loco parentis*.

Mandatory Paternity Identification -- This provision was designed to put the responsibility for providing for children on the parents. Mothers must identify the fathers of their children in order to receive TANF benefits. If unable to do so, they must identify all men who could be the father. Except in limited circumstances, failure to cooperate during the first six months of receipt of assistance will result in removal of the parent's needs or a reduction in the assistance payment of 25 percent, whichever is greater. Continued non-

cooperation with paternity establishment after six months may result in case closure.

When the reason for not providing the information is one of the following, no sanction is imposed:

- (1) The child or parent may be subjected to physical or emotional harm;
- (2) The child was conceived as a result of forcible rape or incest or the result of a rape not reported to authorities at the time of the incident but which the local department of social services substantiates based on the parent's sworn statement and other available information;
- (3) The child is being given up for adoption;
- (4) The caretaker of the child is a relative other than the parent;
- (5) The mother has a mental incapacity that precludes her identifying the father.

In addition, when paternity has not been established and the parent is not cooperating with paternity identification, assistance to the family will not be reduced or terminated if the child for whom the parent is not cooperating was born prior to May 1, 1996, and the parent attests to the lack of information, under penalty of perjury.

Family Cap -- Virginia disallows additional cash payments for children born 10 months after a mother begins receiving cash TANF benefits. In addition, the mother will receive the full amount of child support collected for this child.

Immunization Requirement -- Parents are required to provide their children with all necessary immunizations in order to receive full benefits. Failure to immunize children within the required time frame results in assistance being reduced by \$50 for the first child out of compliance, and \$25 for each additional child out of compliance.

OTHER PROGRAM RULES IN VIRGINIA'S TANF PROGRAM

Assistance Unit -- An assistance unit normally consists of the parents and their children living with them who meet the non-financial requirements of eligibility, such as age, relationship, and citizenship. When the children live with an adult relative other than a parent, such as a grandparent, the assistance unit may consist of the children only or, if the adult relative also needs assistance, the children and the adult relative.

In constructing the assistance unit, the following persons must be included if living with the child for whom TANF has been requested: the natural or adoptive parents and any blood-related or adopted siblings. Parents or children who are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or are statutorily ineligible for TANF under other provisions of law cannot be included in the assistance unit.

Children and parents who are excluded from the assistance unit for failure to follow program rules, such as not providing a social security number for a child or parent or refusing to cooperate with the Division of Child Support Enforcement, are included in the assistance unit for purposes of determining whether the family meets financial eligibility requirements; however, their needs are not included for purposes of determining the amount of the family's monthly benefits.

Benefit Levels -- The State Board of Social Services has established standards of assistance, based on the size of the assistance unit, to be used in all TANF cash payment cases. The standards established cover all allowable maintenance needs. Because of a wide variation in shelter costs within the state, three groups of standards have been established reflecting this variation. The 2000 Virginia General Assembly approved a 10 percent increase in TANF payment levels.

Additional Eligibility Requirements Applicable to Children -- Basic eligibility requirements must be met for a child to qualify for TANF assistance, as follows:

Age -- The child must be under age 18, or if age 18 must be attending school and expected to complete high school by age 19.

Living with a Relative -- The child must be living in the home of a parent or other relative except for temporary absences of up to 45 consecutive days.

Residence in Virginia -- The child must reside in Virginia.

Additional Eligibility Requirements Applicable to the Family -- Additional requirements that must be met by the family unit (parent or other adult caretaker and children) are as follows:

Income -- To qualify for TANF assistance, the assistance unit's countable income must pass screenings at 185 percent of the standard of need and the standard of assistance based on the unit's size. Once the family is determined to be financially needy, the monthly payment is calculated. Income is counted prospectively in determining financial eligibility and the monthly payment amount. A standard work deduction equal to that used in the Food Stamp program plus twenty percent is disregarded. Deductions for child and/or incapacitated adult care, as provided under the former AFDC program, are also applied in determining applicants' eligibility for benefits.

Once a family member agrees, in writing, to participate in the VIEW Program, the unit's earnings are evaluated in comparison to the federal poverty levels, based on assistance unit size.

Countable unearned income reduces the grant amount dollar for dollar for both VIEW and non-VIEW families.

OTHER WELFARE-REFORM ACTIVITIES

In addition to the TANF cash assistance program administered by local departments of social services, the State Department of Social Services has established other programs to provide additional non-assistance services. Services are provided both to families receiving TANF and to other low-income families who have transitioned off the TANF cash assistance program or are at risk of becoming TANF recipients. These programs must meet at least one of the four purposes of the TANF program.

The four purposes of the TANF program are:

Purpose 1- To provide assistance to needy families with children so that the children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.

Purpose 2- End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Purpose 3- Prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies, including establishing prevention and reduction goals.

Purpose 4- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

For purposes one and two, an income test is required. The state has set a maximum income level that ensures that benefits are provided for needy populations. The maximum income level for services provided under purposes one and two is 200 percent of the federal poverty limit.

The following is a description of program activities established by the Department of Social Services or other agencies or organizations to assist the Commonwealth in carrying out the purposes of the TANF program.

(1) Individual Development Accounts --

- (a) VIDA (Virginia Individual Development Accounts) Demonstration Project -- The Virginia General Assembly has appropriated \$4000,000 in State funds for SFY 2005 and 2006 for the VIDA project. VIDA is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Social Services and is designed to determine if encouraging savings and improving personal financial planning can lead lower-income individuals to accumulate productive assets and build self-sufficiency.

Through an individual development account, participating families deposit a portion of their earnings each month into a designated account at a financial institution (a trust through a state agency working cooperatively with a non-profit organization) with the goal of home ownership, post-secondary education or business start-up. The amount deposited is matched monthly at a 2:1 ratio. Participants must save a minimum of \$5 per week, or an amount that averages \$5 per week on a monthly basis, up to a total of \$2,000, to be matched by state dollars at a 2:1 ratio not to exceed \$4,000 in matching funds.

Five demonstration sites provide financial literacy training, matching the earnings deposits of the participants, and administrative costs. The VIDA program is coordinated with other programs provided by the demonstration site that encourages self-sufficiency for low-income families.

The VIDA program rules conform to those in the federal TANF option in Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, section 404 (h). Participation is limited to families with at least one child under age 18. The family's income at the time of enrollment must not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The five sites are:

- (1) Lynchburg Community Action Group, Lynchburg, Virginia
- (2) New Enterprise Fund, Blacksburg, Virginia
- (3) People Inc. of Southwest Virginia, Abingdon, Virginia
- (4) Waynesboro Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Waynesboro, Virginia
- (5) York County Community Services Department, Williamsburg, Virginia

(b) People, Inc. - (IDA) Individual Development Accounts Program -- The Virginia General Assembly has appropriated \$42,500 in TANF block grant funds to People, Inc., a non-profit human services agency in southwest Virginia, to establish individual development accounts. The project encourages low-income families to save for purposes such as home purchase, education, and business start-up. Participants are recruited from young families transitioning from welfare to work, as well as young people in education programs who are attending college, and people in the business programs and home ownership programs who have set goals to buy a house or start a business.

To participate, an individual must be employed. For purposes of this program, a family is considered TANF eligible when the family's earnings do not exceed the earned income amount described in section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 regarding Earned Income Tax Credits. The family must agree to save between \$20 and \$50 per month in an account designated for one of the above three purposes, and must also agree to attend economic literacy training.

(2) *State Program Serving Two-Parent Families*

Effective October 1, 1999, the State has established a separate State program to serve needy two-parent families. State maintenance of effort funds are used for cash assistance payments, employment services, and program administrative costs.

This program is designed to meet the special needs of two-parent families in helping them to attain self-sufficiency. For two-parent VIEW families the income limit is 150% of the federal poverty level.

(3) *State Program Serving Non-VIEW Families*

Effective July 1, 2003, the State established a separate State Program to provide assistance to TANF eligible households who are exempt from VIEW due to employment barriers such as physical disability, mental disability, age, caring for a child under the age of 18 months and caring for a disabled household member. State maintenance-of-effort funds will be used for cash assistance payments.

To qualify for assistance, the assistance unit's countable income must pass screenings at 185% of the standard of need and the standard of assistance based on the unit's size.

(4) *St. Paul's College*

Description of Program -- This initiative is for a pilot program to address the post-secondary educational needs of TANF recipients or a TANF-eligible family member. This program is for individuals who qualify for admission to St. Paul's College. The program outcome is directed toward increasing the self-sufficiency and self-sustainability of program participants.

The program provides non-assistance benefits and services, which are intended to accomplish TANF purposes 1 and 2, which are as follows:

Purpose 1 - Provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives, and

Purpose 2 - End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

If a local department of social services determines a VIEW participant is in need of job skills and would benefit from post-secondary education, it may, with the participant's consent, exempt the participant from job search requirements and place the participant in a post-secondary education program targeted to skills required for particular employment opportunities in the locality.

Funding -- The appropriation for this program is \$85,000 in each year of the 2005-2006 biennium from the federal TANF block grant.

Target Population -- The target population is TANF recipients or TANF-eligible family members who could benefit from post-secondary education in order to end dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Eligible Families -- Participants in the program are limited to those who qualify as TANF recipients or as TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- St. Paul's College is located in Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, Virginia. Participants in the program may be referred to St. Paul's from any of the 121 local departments of social services in the state.

Confidentiality Requirement -- Participants in this program are students at St. Paul's College. By school policy, only the college registrar and the vice-president for finance will have access to participant information without the written consent of the student.

(5) *Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP of VA)*

Description of Program -- The mission of CHIP of VA is "to partner with communities, to strengthen families with young children, to improve community health, and to increase family self sufficiency."

CHIP of VA programs are local public/private partnerships, which provide comprehensive care coordination, family support and referral to medical and dental services for low-income at-risk children. CHIP programs provide a case management process which helps identified families connect to needed services. CHIP of VA does not provide medical or dental services. Local programs are overseen by both a Management Team (executive or senior level management of partner agencies - public health and community based organizations) and an Advisory Council (a broad group comprised of community representatives and local government, social services, health, mental health, education, private business, and parents).

CHIP's efforts to match a family to comprehensive preventive and primary care providers, coupled with family support services, guides families to the effective use of health care and community services. CHIP of VA builds the health of communities by promoting child health and increased family self-sufficiency. CHIP nurses and home visitors work to develop plans for parenting education, health and nutrition, home safety, education and job training.

The program provides nonassistance benefits and services (case management) with the added goals of improving parents' employability and income earning capacity, so they can move on to self-sufficiency. CHIP of VA focuses on making the connection between the family and the assistance provider. While CHIP of VA's efforts cross over into several TANF purposes, they are deemed primarily to focus on two TANF purposes, which are as follows:

Purpose 2 - End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Purpose 4 - Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Funding -- The appropriation for the program is \$2,141,890 each year of the 2005-2006 biennium from the federal TANF block grant.

Target Population -- This program targets low-income families with at-risk children in order to promote strong families, improve child health and increase family self-sufficiency.

Eligible Families -- Any family 1) expecting a child or having minor children under age 6 in the home, 2) with an income level at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and 3) living within a locality with a CHIP of VA program.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- Currently, CHIP of VA operates in 11 sites, serving children in 29 localities across the state. It is expected that all sites would receive a portion of the TANF funds. Sites are located in Arlington, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, New River Valley-Radford, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, Southwest - Abingdon, and Williamsburg.

Confidentiality Requirement -- CHIP of VA maintains client confidentiality by incorporating a "Consent to Exchange Information" form into the process. This form allows the family to explicitly choose to limit certain information from any affiliate. It further defines the family approved reason for sharing the information. Absent a parent or guardian's signature on the form, no information is shared with any affiliate.

(6) *Healthy Families*

Description of Program -- Healthy Families programs offer voluntary, intensive home visiting services for up to five years to new parents who are assessed as being at-risk for child abuse/neglect. The services include in-home parenting education and support services to parents who need individualized and comprehensive support. Families participating in Healthy Families are assigned a Family Support Worker who provides home visiting services based on developing a trusting relationship with families and building on family strengths. Family needs are assessed and a case plan is developed. This plan includes role modeling in problem solving, developing effective parenting techniques and home management skills, ensuring well baby care and linking the family with appropriate community resources.

A Healthy Families Assessment Worker completes a Family Needs Assessment during pregnancy or at birth. If a family is identified as being at high risk of child maltreatment, and in need of support services, that family is offered the opportunity to participate in the Healthy Families program. When families accept services, comprehensive home visiting is initiated and Family Support Workers monitor and follow up on prenatal,

postnatal, and pediatric care. In addition, Healthy Families provides early intervention through parent education, child development screenings, and nutrition counseling. Only nonassistance services and benefits are provided.

Healthy Families addresses purpose 4 of TANF, which is as follows:

Purpose 4 - Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The Healthy Families program supports families by increasing access to and coordinating community services that meet individual family needs. The program also builds on family strengths.

Funding -- Funding appropriated to administer the program is \$4,139,820 from segregated federal TANF block grant funds for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

Target Population -- New parents or expectant parents are screened for services. Those new or expectant parents who are assessed as being at-risk for child abuse/neglect are offered the voluntary home-visiting services. Due to limited resources, many localities only offer these services to first-time parents.

Eligible Families -- Segregated federal TANF funds are used to serve families with children and expectant families who are not TANF recipients. MOE funds are used to serve participants in the program who qualify as TANF recipients or as TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- The program serves 84 cities and counties in Virginia. Localities to be served by Healthy Families are listed below:

Alexandria	Arlington	Harrisonburg
Staunton	Waynesboro	Augusta County
Bath County	Highland County	Rockingham County
Bedford	Bedford County	Lynchburg
Appomattox County	Amherst County	Charles City County

New Kent County	Charlottesville	Albemarle County
Chesterfield County	Colonial Heights	Culpeper
Danville	Pittsylvania County	Fairfax County
Fairfax City	Falls Church	Fauquier County
Hampton	Henrico County	Hopewell
Prince George County	Loudoun County	Newport News
Winchester	Clark County	Frederick County
Orange County	Petersburg	Amelia County
Buckingham County	Charlotte County	Cumberland County
Lunenburg County	Nottoway County	Prince Edward County
Manassas	Manassas Park	Prince William County
Fredericksburg	Caroline County	King George County
Spotsylvania County	Stafford County	Richmond City
Shenandoah County	Chesapeake	Norfolk
Portsmouth	Suffolk	Isle of Wight County
Essex County	Gloucester County	King William County
King & Queen County	Lancaster County	Mathews County
Middlesex County	Northumberland County	Richmond County
Westmoreland County	Virginia Beach	Martinsville
Franklin County	Patrick County	Henry County
Accomack County	Northampton County	Madison County
Rappahannock County	Lee County	Scott County
Wise County	Norton	Warren County

Confidentiality Requirement -- Contracts between the Department of Social Services and local programs include a confidentiality clause as follows: Any information obtained by the Contractor concerning recipients of services under this agreement shall be treated as confidential in accordance with relevant provisions of State and federal law.

(7) *Child Abuse and Neglect Advocacy Projects*

Description of Program -- TANF funds were distributed in the first year of the biennium to three Child Abuse and Neglect Advocacy Projects. These projects provide for the investigation, prosecution, case management, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Funds are used to expand the child and family treatment component of the projects. Child abuse/neglect treatment services include crisis intervention, mental health assessment and treatment, parent education, family treatment, or child and family support groups.

Funds may be used only to provide services and benefits that meet the TANF definition of nonassistance.

Services focus on safely maintaining children in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. Services are disallowed for children in other out-of-home placements.

These projects are intended to meet TANF purpose 1, which is as follows:

Purpose 1 - Provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives.

Funding -- \$200,000 from federal TANF block grant funds is appropriated for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

Target Population -- The projects target victims of child abuse or neglect and their families.

Eligible Families -- Program participants are limited to those who qualify as TANF recipients or as TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- Areas served by the three child abuse advocacy projects include: Southwest Virginia, including Bristol and Washington County; Franklin County; and Wythe County.

Confidentiality Requirement -- Grantees are required to submit a copy of their confidentiality policy and comply with confidentiality requirements as specified in their contracts with the department and the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act (*Code of Virginia* § 2.2-3800 et seq.).

(8) *Domestic Violence Program*

Description of Program -- The services provided are crisis and core services to victims of domestic violence, including 24-hour crisis telephone service, shelter, crisis counseling, supportive counseling, information and referral, transportation, coordination of services, legal advocacy, and basic children's services for children of victims of domestic

violence. Funds may be used only to provide services and benefits that meet the TANF definition of nonassistance.

The services relate to TANF purposes 1 and 2, which are as follows:

Purpose 1 - Provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives, and

Purpose 2 - End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Funding -- \$1,062,500 in TANF block grant funding is appropriated for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

Target Population -- The target population served is women who are victims of domestic violence who have dependent children with them, or who are pregnant.

Eligible Families -- Program participants are limited to those who qualify as TANF recipients or as TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- Domestic violence programs are statewide, although each individual program has an area that it serves.

Confidentiality Requirement -- Domestic violence programs have stringent confidentiality requirements from their other funding sources, and use these for the TANF population as well.

(9) *Community Action Agencies*

Description of Program -- The Community Action Network consists of 26 local agencies that provide a wide array of services for low-income families and individuals. TANF funds are used to provide a variety of services to needy families including emergency services, case management services, supportive services including child care and transportation to employed families, cars for work programs, individual development account programs, intensive life skills training for families who are at risk to lose children to foster care, and computer skills.

Services and benefits provided may only be in the form of non-assistance. Contracts with administering agencies prohibit the provision of TANF "assistance." The services and benefits provided meet TANF purposes 1 and 2, which are as follows:

Purpose 1 - Provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives, and

Purpose 2 - End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Funding -- The appropriation for this program is \$3,397,859 from federal TANF block grant funds for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

Target Population -- The program is targeted to serve needy families with minor children.

Eligible Families -- To be eligible, families must be TANF recipients or TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- The localities served by the Community Action Agencies are listed below:

Accomack County	Halifax County	Wise County
Albemarle County	Henry County	Wythe County
Alleghany County	Isle of Wight County	Alexandria
Amelia County	James City County	Bedford
Amherst County	King and Queen County	Bristol
Appomattox County	King William County	Buena Vista
Arlington County	Lee County	Charlottesville
Bedford County	Louisa County	Chesapeake
Bland County	Lunenburg County	Clifton Forge
Botetourt County	Madison County	Covington
Brunswick County	Montgomery County	Danville
Buchanan County	Nelson County	Emporia
Buckingham County	New Kent County	Franklin
Campbell County	Northampton County	Galax
Caroline County	Nottoway County	Hampton

Carroll County	Orange County	Lexington
Charles City County	Patrick County	Lynchburg
Charlotte County	Pittsylvania County	Martinsville
Craig County	Powhatan County	Newport News
Cumberland County	Prince Edward County	Norfolk
Dickenson County	Pulaski County	Norton
Fairfax County	Roanoke County	Petersburg
Fauquier County	Rockbridge County	Portsmouth
Floyd County	Russell County	Radford
Fluvanna County	Scott County	Richmond
Franklin County	Smyth County	Roanoke
Giles County	Southampton County	Salem
Goochland County	Surry County	South Boston
Grayson County	Sussex County	Suffolk
Greene County	Tazewell County	Virginia Beach
Greensville County	Washington County	Williamsburg

Confidentiality Requirement -- The contract requires the agency to maintain the confidentiality of client information in accordance with relevant provisions of State and federal law.

(10) *Employment Advancement*

Description of Program -- This funding provides resources to implement the plan for the TANF hard-to-serve submitted to the 2000 General Assembly (*Virginia's Welfare Reform: Employment Strategies for the Hard-to-Serve*). This program includes enhancing the VIEW program and serving other (non-VIEW) clients with barriers to employment such as learning, mental, and physical disabilities. It is expected that local agencies will also utilize their current VIEW funds and maximize the uses of other funds to address the needs of TANF recipients with significant barriers to employment. The funds may also be used for services that increase wages and retention, so that a long-term impact is made on the earnings of families.

This initiative provides non-assistance services and benefits meeting TANF purposes 1 and 2, which are as follows:

Purpose 1 - Provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives, and

Purpose 2 - End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Funding -- \$7,721,331 in federal TANF block grant funds is available on a competitive basis for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

Target Population -- The funds will be used for TANF recipients.

Eligible Families -- Program participants are TANF recipients or those who qualify as TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- The program is administered statewide.

Confidentiality Requirement -- Information collected on individuals and families receiving services funded by TANF is protected as specified in the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act (*Code of Virginia* § 2.2-3800 et seq.).

(11) *Centers for Employment Training*

Description of Program -- The Center for Employment Training (CET) is a nationally recognized training model. The General Assembly designated five organizations to receive TANF funds to replicate this model. Four of the five are community action agencies. The TANF funds are used to provide a variety of non-assistance employment services to needy families.

Only non-assistance benefits and services may be provided. These meet TANF purposes 1 and 2, which are as follows:

Purpose 1 - Provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives, and

Purpose 2 - End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Funding -- The appropriation for CET is \$637,500 for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium from the federal TANF block grant.

Target Population -- The populations targeted for this program are needy families.

Eligible Families -- To be eligible, families must be TANF recipients or TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- The areas covered by CET are:

Alexandria Center for Employment Training: Arlington, Fairfax City and County and the City of Alexandria; Lynchburg Community Action Group: Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell counties and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg;

People, Incorporated: Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Washington counties and the city of Bristol;

Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project: Isle of Wight and Southampton counties and the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach; and

Total Action Against Poverty: Allegheny, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Rockbridge counties and the cities of Buena Vista, Clifton Forge, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke, and Salem.

Confidentiality Requirement -- Confidentiality requirements and procedures are included in the contract.

(12) Housing

Description of Program -- This initiative provides funds for non-recurrent, short-term (less than four months) housing services to needy families. Funds may be used only to provide services and benefits that meet the TANF definition of non-assistance. The funds are used for the following four areas:

(1) Emergency assistance, as part of a continuum of housing services, for eligible families which have a dependent child;

(2) Transitional housing, including emergency shelter, battered women's

shelters, housing to support recovery from substance abuse, and other types;

- (3) Family shelters, allowing the part-time child care coordinators to become full-time and offer the wide array and intensive social services needed by these families; and
- (4) Homeless intervention to prevent individuals from becoming homeless. This includes coverage of a shelter expense, such as rent. This service can provide up to four months of coverage.

These services fall under TANF purposes 1 and 2, which are as follows:

Purpose 1 - Provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives, and

Purpose 2 - End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

Funding -- \$4,910,128 in federal TANF block grant funding is appropriated for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

Target Population -- The funds are for the TANF-eligible population, including VIEW and non-VIEW populations.

Eligible Families -- Program participants are TANF recipients or those who qualify as TANF-eligible family members. A TANF-eligible family consists of a child living with a custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative with income not to exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- The program is statewide, though not all localities may be covered.

Confidentiality Requirement -- Information collected on families receiving housing services funded by TANF is protected as specified in the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act (*Code of Virginia* § 2.2-38007 et seq.).

(13) Services for At-Risk Children and Families

Description of Program –This program provides the following services: Intensive in-home family therapy and mentoring provide a range of wraparound services to families to assist in the development of competent parenting and coping skills. On-site counseling allows families to reveal their patterns of interaction and to make adjustments in their natural environment. Respite and activities intended to promote positive social behaviors in the child also further the ultimate goal of preventing out-of-home placements of at-risk children. Psychological assessment services are selectively used to identify mental disorders that are impacting the families and to assist in developing targeted interventions. Intensive Supervision and Family Outreach Programs prevent juveniles from engaging in behaviors that result in removal from their families and homes. Case managers and outreach workers make three to seven contacts weekly with each juvenile and work with parents, school officials and job sites to promote productive behavior and stable family relationships.

Other services provided are as follows: Supportive services, including specialized therapies and other services intended to assist the child in development of age-appropriate skills for moving towards a more independent level of functioning, are purchased from private providers within the community.

The services provided are non-assistance in nature and relate to purpose 4 of the TANF objectives, which is as follows:

Purpose 4 - Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Funding -- \$957,821 in segregated federal TANF block grant funding is appropriated for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

Target population --The program serves at-risk children and their families throughout the state.

Eligible Families -- This program is available to children and their families in need of the above-described services without regard to family status or income.

Geographic Area(s) Served -- Planning District 16: Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George and Caroline counties and the City of Fredricksburg.

Confidentiality Requirement -- Information obtained about program participants is treated as confidential in accordance with relevant portions of State and Federal Law.

SECTION 2

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (ii) **Require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program to engage in work (as defined by the State) once the State determines the parent or caretaker is ready to engage in work, or once the parent or caretaker has received assistance under the program for 24 months (whether or not consecutive), whichever is earlier, consistent with section 407(e)(2).**

THE WORK COMPONENT

The VIEW Program is a workforce development program that assists individuals in attaining the goal of self-sufficiency. All TANF applicants are screened at application to determine whether they must be referred for participation in VIEW. Nonexempt individuals are referred to VIEW workers within a month of case approval and assessed for participation within 30 days of referral. In a TANF-UP case, both parents must be referred for participation unless one meets an exemption. Only one parent can be exempt.

All Nonexempt Recipients Are Required to Sign an Agreement of Personal Responsibility -- The agreement of personal responsibility clearly states the expectations that must be met under VIEW. If a recipient refuses to sign this agreement, then the case is closed and the recipient must reapply for benefits.

Benefits Are Time-Limited -- TANF recipients who are in VIEW are allowed to receive 24 months of cash benefits, plus a year of transitional benefits. After that, they must wait two years before they can again qualify for TANF.

Welfare Recipients Must Work for Their Benefits – Individuals who are unable to work due to barriers to employment receive assistance under the Non-VIEW program. There are 10 exemptions to this work requirement. These ten exemptions are:

- (1) Any individuals, including all minor caretakers, under 16 years of age;
- (2) Any individual at least 16, but no more than 19 years of age, who is enrolled full-time in elementary or secondary school, including vocational or technical school programs. The vocational or technical school must be

equivalent to secondary school. Once the individual loses this exemption, (s)he cannot re-qualify for the exemption, even if (s)he returns to school, unless the case is closed and reopened or (s)he becomes exempt for another reason;

- (3) Any individual unable to participate because of a temporary medical condition that prevents entry into any level of employment or training as determined by a physician;
- (4) Any individual who is incapacitated, as determined by receipt of Social Security Disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income;
- (5) Any individual 60 years of age or older;
- (6) Any individual who is the sole care giver of another member of the household who is incapacitated, and whose presence is essential for the care of the member on a substantially continuous basis, shall be exempt from participation in VIEW. Incapacity is determined by receipt of Social Security Disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income. The sole other condition under which an individual may be determined incapacitated is by a written medical statement from a physician;
- (7) A parent or caretaker of a child under 18 months of age who personally provides care for the child. A parent of a child not considered part of the TANF assistance unit under the family cap provision (*Code of Virginia* § 63.1-105.7) may be granted a temporary exemption of not more than six weeks after the birth of the child;
- (8) A female who is in her fourth through ninth month of pregnancy as determined by a written medical statement provided by a physician, a registered nurse who is the physician's designee, or a licensed nurse practitioner;
- (9) Children receiving AFDC-Foster Care; and
- (10) Grandparents or other relatives who are not the adoptive or biological parents of the child.

In a TANF-UP case, both parents must be referred for participation unless one meets an exemption. Only one parent can be exempt.

Supportive Services -- Supportive and social services are provided to remove barriers to the individual's participation and to stabilize employment. Supportive

services are provided as needed and available to support participation in orientation, assessment, approved self-initiated education, training and employment activities, or to accept or maintain employment. The provision of supportive services is contingent upon the availability of funds based on local VIEW allocations, and spending limits for services will be at the agency's discretion.

Supportive services include:

- (1) Child care;
- (2) Transportation, including certain vehicle repairs;
- (3) Program and/or work-related expenses, such as fees for birth certificates, license fees, registration fees, graduation fees, picture ID costs, uniforms or other clothing and shoes, safety equipment and tools, and car repairs; and
- (4) Emergency intervention, such as provision of food, payment of utilities, or other items necessary for the participant to gain or keep employment or to participate in other work activities.

If supportive services are essential for participation, and neither the participant nor the agency can provide them, and no alternatives are available, the participant will not be sanctioned for noncompliance. In these situations, the participant is placed in an inactive status to prevent the clock from counting against the VIEW 24-month time limit.

A participant cannot be sanctioned if acceptable child care is not available. Federal TANF regulations at section § 261.56(b) require the State to define the following four terms as they relate to determining if needed child care is available. The terms and the Commonwealth's definitions are as follows:

- (1) "Appropriate child care" means child care arranged by the participant or, if the participant cannot arrange for the child's care, child care arranged by the local department of social services with a legally-operating provider.
- (2) "Reasonable distance" means that the travel time from the child's home to the child care provider and the work site is generally no more than one hour, based on transportation available to the parent.
- (3) "Unsuitability of informal child care" means that the child care

arrangement does not meet the requirements for relative care in the Virginia Department of Social Services Child Care Services policy.

- (4) "Affordable child care arrangements" means the cost of the child care is less than or equal to the payment amounts specified in the Virginia Department of Social Services Child Care Services policy.

For purposes of the above definitions, the term "legally-operating provider" includes all providers regulated by the Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Licensing, city-approved providers, county-approved providers, local agency-approved providers, federally approved providers, and providers who are legally exempt from regulation based upon the number and ages of children in care or because the provider is a relative caring only for relatives.

Failure to Meet the Requirements of VIEW Will Result in Consequences --

Recipients who fail to participate in work activities or to comply with the terms and conditions of their personal responsibility agreements receive a sanction. If an individual is sanctioned, her family's entire TANF benefit amount is reduced by 100 percent for a fixed period of time, or until the individual complies with the terms of the sanction, whichever is longer. Participants who have been sanctioned are not entitled to supportive services unless these services are required to maintain the participant's employment.

For a first sanction, the TANF grant is suspended for one month or until compliance, whichever is longer; for a second sanction, the TANF grant is suspended for three months or until compliance, whichever is longer; and for any subsequent sanctions, the TANF grant is suspended for six months or until compliance, whichever is longer.

SECTION 3

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (ii) **Ensure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program engage in work activities in accordance with section 407.**

Work Requirement -- Clients have 90 days after being enrolled in VIEW to find employment. If, at the end of this 90-day time period, they have not found private sector employment, they are to be placed in subsidized employment, community work experience, or on-the-job training.

Definition of Work -- An individual is considered working if:

- (1) Employed in unsubsidized full-time employment (30 hours a week or more) unless it is a TANF-UP case in which case the minimum is 35 hours;
- (2) Employed part-time (less than 30 hours per week) and also fully participating in assigned activities designed to help her obtain full-time employment for a total of at least 30 hours per week (35 hours if a TANF-UP participant);
- (3) Unemployed but participating in an assigned work activity. The work activity may be subsidized employment, on-the-job training, or community work experience.

Recipients Keep the Money They Earn -- A generous earned income disregard provides an incentive for welfare recipients to work by allowing families to keep all of their earnings along with their TANF benefits, up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level for one-parent families and up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level for two-parent families.

Hardship Exceptions to the Two-Year Limit -- Virginia has several hardship exceptions that extend a client's TANF benefits beyond the two-year time limit. Benefits may be extended for a period of three months to one year. Virginia's hardship exceptions apply to participants who are actively seeking employment but unable to find a job, participants who lose employment due to no fault of their own, participants continuing education and training related directly to employability, and participants residing in areas of the state with unemployment rates above 10 percent. These hardships will only be granted in cases where

the individual participant has satisfactorily participated during his VIEW assignments, has not been sanctioned more than once during the 24 months of participation and has not quit a job without good cause.

Child Care and Transportation Are Available to Help Transition to the Working World -- Virginia will provide up to one year of transitional child care, and transportation assistance to some VIEW clients who are no longer eligible for TANF benefits. Transitional child care and transportation benefits are available only to those former clients who are working.

Transitional child care is paid from Child Care and Development Block Grant funds. The financial eligibility criteria for transitional child care assistance are as follows:

Income eligibility thresholds for child care assistance account for variations in the local cost of living index by metropolitan statistical areas. Localities which are not considered part of a metropolitan statistical area are grouped in one of three metropolitan statistical areas, based on their geographical proximity. (All three are in proximity to Group I.) Income limits are then set at or below a defined percentage of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family size, as follows:

- Group I Localities – 150 percent
- Group II Localities – 160 percent
- Group III Localities – 185 percent

Transitional transportation services are paid from TANF and State funds. Families who participated in VIEW are deemed to be eligible for transitional transportation based on their prior TANF eligibility.

SECTION 4

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (iv) **Take such reasonable steps as the State deems necessary to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under the program attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government.**

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Virginia will take reasonable and necessary steps to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under the program attributable to funds provided by the Federal government. Information about applicants or recipients will be used or disclosed only for purposes directly connected with the administration of public assistance and related services which cannot be offered without such information. The safeguards shall not prevent the State agency from furnishing a Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer with the current address of any recipient in a manner consistent with state and federal laws (*Code of Virginia § 63.2-102*).

SECTION 5

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (v) **Establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, with special emphasis on teenage pregnancies, and establish numerical goals for reducing the illegitimacy ratio of the State (as defined in section 403 (a)(2)(C)(iii)) for calendar years 1996 through 2005.**

Virginia currently has several initiatives underway to reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births and teen pregnancy. The programs described below are funded with segregated Federal TANF funds, unless otherwise indicated.

Partners in Prevention (Community-Based Non-marital Pregnancy Prevention Program)

Under the direction of the Virginia General Assembly, the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Departments of Health and Social Services, the Partners in Prevention (PIP) program received segregated federal TANF funding of \$765,000 per year for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. This program was established to encourage and support community-directed strategies to prevent and reduce the incidence of non-marital births. In the State of Virginia, the teen non-marital pregnancy rates have declined in the 1990's. In contrast, increases in these areas were attributed to young adults. In 1998, Virginia reported that 28.8 percent of all non-marital births were to teens aged 10-19 and 55.4 percent were to young adults aged 20-29 (Virginia Health Statistics Annual Report, Vol. I & III, 1998). In 1999, Virginia reported that 28.5 percent of all non-marital births were to teens aged 10-19 and 55.8 percent were to young adults aged 20-29 (Virginia Health Statistics Annual Report, Vol. I & II, 1999).

In consideration of these findings, the PIP initiative targets a primary audience of young adults aged 20-29 to reduce the non-marital birth rate. This initiative has a secondary target audience of teens, aged 10-19. Areas of concern that each coalition addresses are: marriage before conception, male responsibility, discouraging cohabitation outside of marriage, delaying sexual involvement until marriage, and discouraging high risk sexual behavior.

Virginia has established numerical goals for reducing the percent of non-marital births. The goals were first established in 1996. Due to an increase in non-marital births in 1999, the projected rates were adjusted for the years 1999 –

2005. Virginia's numerical goals for reducing the illegitimacy ratio (out-of-wedlock births divided by the number of births) are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Projected Rate of Out-of-Wedlock Births</u>
2005	26.7%
2006	26.7%
2007	26.7%

Resource Mothers Sibling Program

The Virginia Department of Health has been allocated \$176,800 in segregated TANF funds for SFY 2005 and 2006 to administer the Resource Mothers Sibling Program, which delivers non-assistance services. Studies have found that siblings of pregnant and parenting teens are at higher risk for early premarital sexual activity, out-of-wedlock births, and school dropout than siblings of non-pregnant/non-parenting teens. Adult mentoring relationships, involvement in community activities, and establishment of future goals have been found to counterbalance the pressure towards risky sexual behaviors and other negative behaviors. The Virginia Resource Mothers' home visitors working with pregnant and parenting teens will refer younger non-pregnant sisters, ages 9-15, to a mentoring program.

Health promotion, avoidance of non-marital sexual activity, connection to the community, development of leadership skills, and identification of future goals will be encouraged through the mentoring relationships and through community projects. This initiative will provide stipends for the mentors, group activity supplies, and transportation. The statewide project will serve 45-60 young women annually. Goals are designed to meet the TANF program objectives to "prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies" as well as "encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families."

The program seeks to promote the positive life choices and health behaviors in the siblings of pregnant teens through the following activities:

- (1) Mentors will meet individually with the young teen once a week and have group activities once a week.
- (2) Health promotion will include education about nutrition, avoidance of substance abuse and participation in physical exercise.
- (3) Promotion of non-marital sexual activity will be fostered through

exposure to educational and career opportunities, development of positive self-concept through community activities, improvement in decision-making skills, and development of a supportive network with other group members.

- (4) Leadership skills will be fostered through planning and completing community projects and other group activities.

SECTION 6

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (vi) **Conduct a program, designed to reach State and local law enforcement officials, the education system, and relevant counseling services, that provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be expanded in scope to include men.**

Statutory Rape Awareness Program

The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Family Health Services, Center for Injury and Violence Prevention, will conduct a program designed to reach state and local law enforcement officials, the education system, and relevant counseling services. The program provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be expanded in scope to include men. TANF funds of \$127,500 were allocated for each year of the 2005-2006 biennium.

SECTION 7

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (i) **The document shall indicate whether the State intends to treat families moving into the State from another State differently than other families under the program, and if so, how the State intends to treat such families under the program.**

Virginia does not treat families who move into the Commonwealth differently from current Virginia residents regarding the receipt of TANF benefits.

SECTION 8

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (ii) **The document shall indicate whether the State intends to provide assistance under the program to individuals who are not citizens of the United States, and if so, shall include an overview of such assistance.**

Virginia provides TANF benefits to all aliens who meet the federal TANF definition of a "qualified alien" with the exception of those categories of qualified aliens who entered on or after August 22, 1996, who are barred from receiving assistance for five years beginning on the date of the alien's entry into the United States with a status within the meaning of the term "qualified alien." The Commonwealth provides assistance to all alien groups permitted to receive benefits under federal TANF law and regulations.

SECTION 9

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (iii) The document shall set forth objective criteria for the delivery of benefits and the determination of eligibility and for fair and equitable treatment, including an explanation of how the State will provide opportunities for recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a State administrative or appeal process.**

Virginia has established procedures for ensuring fair and equitable treatment of applicants and recipients of public assistance. There shall be no discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital, parental, or birth status, or disability by State or local agencies in the administration of any public assistance program.

Virginia continues to offer the same administrative fair hearing procedure as was provided under AFDC for any aggrieved TANF recipient. The Department of Social Services has established objective standards for providing benefits and services, determining eligibility, and ensuring fair and equitable treatment. Applicants and recipients who believe they have been adversely affected by a decision concerning public assistance or needed services may request to have the decision reconsidered in accordance with *Code of Virginia* § 63.2-517, 63.2-518 and 63.2-519. Recipients have the right to appeal any action or inaction affecting eligibility, benefit or service determination or condition of payment and are advised of this right with each adverse action notice.

SECTION 10

STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT: -- The State Plan must outline how the State intends to do the following:

- (iv) **Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, unless the chief executive officer of the State opts out of this provision by notifying the Secretary, a State shall, consistent with the exception provided in section 407(e)(2), require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program who, after receiving such assistance for two months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under section 407(c), to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week and tasks to be determined by the State.**

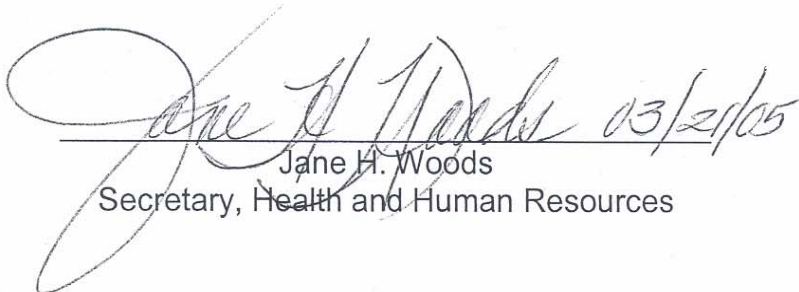
Virginia exercises its option to forgo incorporating the community service requirement set forth at section 402 (a)(1)(B)(iv) into its work program. The VIEW program design requires that all mandatory participants seek full or part-time unsubsidized employment. If unsubsidized employment is not found within the first 90 days of eligibility for cash assistance, the participant is assigned to a work activity (subsidized employment, community work experience program, or on-the-job training) designed to prepare her for unsubsidized employment. Virginia strongly believes that participants should focus first on seeking paid employment during their initial entry into the program.

TANF State Plan Attachments

TANF Standards of Assistance
TANF Locality Groupings
TANF-Related State Regulations
Code of Virginia Sections Applicable to TANF Program

**CERTIFICATION IN SUPPORT OF VIRGINIA'S STATE PLAN FOR
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**

1. During each fiscal year the Commonwealth will operate a child support enforcement program under the State Plan approved under part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act.
2. During each fiscal year the Commonwealth will operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State plan approved under part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act and will take such action as are necessary to ensure that children receiving assistance under such part are eligible for medical assistance under the State plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.
3. During each fiscal year, the program will be supervised by the Virginia Department of Social Services. The program has been designed with input from local governments and private sector organizations have had at least 45 days to submit comments on the plan and the design of services.
4. During each fiscal year, the Commonwealth will provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and is not eligible for assistance under a Tribal Family Assistance plan approved under Section 412, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal government.
5. The Commonwealth has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage.


Jane H. Woods
Secretary, Health and Human Resources